

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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5. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and an envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into a an unsintered cylindrical varistor body;

coating envelop envelope surfaces of the unsintered varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a high-resistance material by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and sintering the coated varistor body.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the envelop envelope surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the envelop envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO_2 , LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3 .

8. (previously added) The method according to claim 5, wherein the coated varistor

body is sintered at 1100-1300° C for 2-10 hours.

9. (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein the envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO_2 , LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3 .

10. (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein the coated varistor body is sintered at 1100-1300° C for 2-10 hours.

11. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the coated varistor body is sintered at 1100-1300° C for 2-10 hours.

12. (new) A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and an envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into an unsintered cylindrical varistor body;
coating envelope surfaces of the unsintered varistor body with an aqueous dispersion of a high-resistance material comprising SiO_2 , LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3 by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and

sintering the coated varistor body at 1100-1300°C for 2-10 hours, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the envelope surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.